

## ORLEANS COUNTY MONITOR

WALLACE H. GILPIN, Publisher,  
Barton, Vt.Published every Wednesday afternoon.  
Entered at the Post-office at Barton, Vt.,  
as second-class matter.

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## WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.

## Page and His Banking.

The Randolph Herald and News is about right when it says that the bank commissioner's charges against Senator Page are more serious as an index of his mental attitude toward right and wrong than their bearing on the commission of the acts themselves. The very fact that Commissioner Williams had to work six years before he could induce Senator Page to mend his banking methods would seem to indicate that the gentleman from Hyde Park possesses what might charitably be called a defective moral vision. And such a possession is a dangerous thing for a United States senator to have.—Brattleboro Reformer.

## Same Old Telephone Story.

Some interesting evidence was given at the telephone rate inquiry before the Quebec Utilities commission at Sherbrooke, Friday. For instance, it was stated by the secretary of the E. T. company, that at the time of the merger the E. T. company assumed the liabilities of the old People's company; took over the Bell plants "at a price agreed upon," the Bell company receiving bonds and stock in proportion to the value of the assets it had put in, or about one-third more than the People's company. To be exact the Bell company received \$30,425 in common stock, \$22,325 in preferred stock and \$64,000 in bonds. The old shares of the People's company were exchanged for shares in the E. T. company. The People's company had \$44,500 at the time of the merger, and these were exchanged dollar for dollar. The plants were old and run down; nobody seems to have put real money into the enterprise to build it up, but the old holders received out of stock and bonds upon which it was apparently expected to reap a harvest. The two companies had each maintained independent lines along the same highways for many miles, and independent changes in towns and villages. Great economies were to be effected by the union. At the time of the merger, subscribers were told that the old rates would be maintained. Soon afterwards all connection with outside territory began to be lopped off, and later on the price-raising began. The old price was \$15, the new one \$25, the old territory was the county, the new one the local exchange.

The present physical value of the E. T. plant, as given by the secretary of the company, is \$126,375.38, and against this is a bond issue of \$108,700. The most remarkable bit of evidence is that in arriving at this total, no allowance had been made for depreciation. If a man bought a second-hand automobile, banged it over the rough roads for four years, and then put it in at the price of a new one, he would be in a class with the telephone financiers. As we have several times pointed out, the old People's company served a useful purpose in keeping the rates within bounds, but subscribers of today could hardly be expected to furnish the profits the old company failed to make. If the plants of the two companies which went into the merger had been put in at their actual value at that time, if the new company's affairs had been wisely and prudently managed since, and if the arrangements with the Bell company in regard to tolls be a reasonable one, then it would be only fair that stockholders as well as bondholders should receive a reasonable income. But subscribers should not be bled in any effort to create an income on absurd values. One of the company's contentions is that it does not discriminate. A subscriber on the Ayer's Cliff exchange may talk with any subscriber on the Rock Island exchange, without toll, but every subscriber on the Rock Island exchange must pay for connection with any subscriber on the Ayer's Cliff exchange. Of course there is no discrimination about that. It is only fair, however, that final judgment on the whole affair should be withheld until the commission has completed its inquiry. The telephone is a necessity. If the E. T. company can show that its valuations are right, that it is not being impoverished by the Bell interests, and that it is being skillfully managed, by all means let the holders have a fair income on their investments even if we have to pay \$100 for a phone. But some companies have furnished telephone service at a much lower figure and that with profit to themselves.—Stanstead (P. Q.), Journal.

## FOR A MERCHANT MARINE WITHOUT FEDERAL COMPETITION.

Again, we must build up our merchant marine. It will not aid to put the government into competition with private owners. That, it seems to me, is a counsel of folly. A surer way of destroying the promise of our foreign trade could hardly be devised. It has well been asked, "Does the government intend to operate at a profit or at a loss?" We need the encouragement and protection of government for our shipping industry, but it cannot afford to have the government as a competitor.—From Mr. Hughes' Speech of Acceptance.

## THE PLATTSBURGH MILITARY TRAINING CAMPS.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

During the first week in camp, though the days were long and hot, —96° in the shade being the average temperature —the men were rapidly initiated into the ways a soldier must go. Obedience is the soldier's only privilege, and the sooner the rookie finds this out the better it is for him. After being assigned to a regiment and company, the rookie is assigned by the company's commander to a particular squad and tent. Each tent, shaped like a pyramid, and covering about 225 square feet, houses seven privates and one corporal, or one squad. The corporal is the squad leader, he heads the little family and what he says goes. However, he is as human as the rest of us and as a matter of fact he plays the part of a good father, advising when necessary and reprimanding very seldom. Generally, he is a good old scout and we soon love him to death. There are sixteen squads to a company, the even numbered squads living on one side of the company street, and the odd numbered ones living on the other.

After being placed in a squad, the rookie immediately gets acquainted with the seven men with whom he is to share the pleasures and joys of his tent home and camp life. The dirt floor of the tent is evened up, ditches are dug immediately outside the tent boundaries in order to prevent water from coming in in time of severe rain storms. Next, a crude form of gun-rack is constructed and a cross-arm placed on the tent pole for hanging up the blouses which are worn at the evening mess and on special occasions. In camp each rookie sleeps upon a cot provided with mattress, pillow and pillow case and two blankets. The tent floor is apt to be damp, so the rookie improvises means to keep his personal effects—his kit—out of the mud for the most part on the ground, under his cot, as the tent provides very little room other than that taken up by the eight cots—dry and from being ruined by the dampness. So he places slats upon the ground, here he places his suitcase or other traveling bag, if he has one. Sometimes an egg, under the company's mess back, is stood on end under the head of the cot; one end serves as a chignonier or washstand top, while the partition does remarkably well for a shelf where toilet articles may be kept. To each man is issued a camp bag into which may be put—as one does in the catch-all at home—any articles for which there is no convenient location. In this regard it might be said that the wise recruit leaves home attired in his uniform and carrying with him the bare necessities of his sojourn of a month. Otherwise the rookie either has much of his personal property ruined or lost or he finds absolutely no use for it and takes up valuable room which he can ill afford to part with.

At one end of the company street is water for washing, just a simple spicket sticking up out of the ground. Warm water is not to be had, so one has to learn the art of keeping clean and shaved without it. The companies are divided with one another in the construction of wash stands where the men may not only make their personal toilets but do the weekly wash. Because of trouble the camp had with the town laundries, each man found it necessary to wash all his own clothes or else go unclean. During the hot weather the men sometimes made as many as three changes a day, so that the wash stands were constantly in use. Mother at home would have smiled to witness the frantic efforts her son made to whiten the underclothes and towels which strangely enough took on that familiar yellow hue. Every tent rope disappeared under its heavy load.

Perhaps the most important feature of the company street is the rough stand where the men may clean their rifles. No matter how clean one's gun is at taps or bedtime it will be found to be in horrible condition at morning assembly. Woe be it unto him who fails to keep the rust from every metal part of his piece, and who allows his gun barrel to show dust! Inspecting officers must have visions extraordinary, for they have eyes that see everything. Sometimes it seems they are able to find rust on a gun one could swear was not there before inspection.

Men improved physically. Practically all of the men in camp were in excellent health. Some lost from three to fifteen pounds, but this loss was in the nature of superfluous flesh. Muscles were suddenly hardened, shoulders made straight, a good healthy color was taken on, and the rookie made to look more like a hardy son of the soil than a pale-faced office clerk or worn-out business man. Blisters, large and small, upon the bottoms of one's feet, were perhaps the most plentiful ailments, but even these and practically every other similar annoyance human beings may have, were carefully looked after by the camp doctors. Every man was urged to report for sick call even though he had only a slight headache. The camp is kept in a healthful condition. A large percentage of the men took the three typhoid prophylactic inoculations given in camp. In addition many talks have been given by the officers on personal hygiene and camp sanitation, so that there was no reason why men should not keep well and clean. Excellent showers were provided, affording a good cool bracing bath at almost any time. The hot water is not to be had, after a man has become used to taking a good cool shower day after day he probably wouldn't use hot water if he had it.

## SOCIAL SIDE OF CAMP LIFE

Perhaps the social side of camp life is the most vitalizing influence present. A fellow becomes attached to the men in his squad, and swears by them as against the whole company, if need be. The men in the company are loyal to that unit and give unstinted support. A man soon knows every other man in the street and in a surprisingly short time the men live together as brethren. There is no such thing as social caste; the men live, eat, sleep and meet on a common level no matter what one's status in the community back home. A fellow may have as his tent mate, a banker, a broker, a railroad man, a school teacher, a lawyer, a newspaper man and an insurance agent. The squad soon becomes almost a fraternal organization, and one does not hesitate

even to share his personal property with any other member of the squad family. Each man is free and glad to exchange views in regard to matters political, business, or as the case may be. These impromptu conferences are educational and destined to have their broadening effects upon the men. Most of the time the men forget their years and skip and hop like boys of twelve. Strangely enough our gray-haired boys seemingly had the most pep!

## ON THE RIFLE RANGE

For four days the men of the regiment, to which the writer was assigned, were on the rifle range. Owing to lack of time it was necessary to shoot for record without having previously been given preliminary practice with the gun. It goes without saying that most of the rookies were taken at a disadvantage since probably not more than five per cent of them had ever done any shooting let alone having handled a rifle. However, there was no help for it and the men, being good sports, went into the work with a will. Ten shots, slow fire, and prone were made at 300 yards; ten shots slow fire and prone at 600 yards; ten shots, rapid fire during 90 seconds, sitting or kneeling at 200 yards; and ten shots, rapid fire during two minutes, prone at 300 yards. That was the program. All things considered the men did very well. After the men have completed the range work for the day, they are detailed to work the targets in the "butts" or "pits" as they are called. Immediately beneath the 36 double targets is a long cement trench about 12 feet deep and 20 feet wide. Here the rookie gets a real taste of trench warfare in all its realities. Spat, and then the crack of the rifle heard a half-second later tells him that the bullet in traveling its 900 yards per second reaches its mark long before the man in the trench hears the report of the gun from which that bullet has sped. All sorts of weird sounds are made by the flying steel-capped bullets. Often a stray shot will shower sand and pebbles upon the hand of the target marker. But he soon gets so used to this that he is disappointed if ricochet shots don't put in an appearance once in a while. An afternoon in the "butts" is an unique experience which one never forgets. Though it is filled with thrills it exposes the man to no danger save that due to his own carelessness and inattention to direction.

## THE HIKE

The hike took eight days. Not counting the forced marches necessary to perform the maneuvers the distance covered was about 75 miles. Four regiments of about 2000 men took the trip and played the war game as though the sham battles were real engagements. The troop left camp by the south road along Lake Champlain, returning by way of West Plattsburgh. Occasionally the metal road would be followed, more often, however, the way was through the underbrush, over roads three to six inches deep in heavy sand, over stone walls, fences and the like. Usually the men marched fifty minutes and rested ten. Though the men were cautioned against drinking water while on the march, most of those who fell out along the road were found to have disobeyed this sage advice. A man can soon learn to travel long distances and under the most trying conditions, and yet not drink a drop of water.

Each man had a 37-pound pack to carry besides the eight-hundred-pound rifle and his belt containing 50 rounds of blank ammunition. There were also attached to his belt his first-aid pouch and his canteen. The pack contains one meat can with knife, fork and spoon; one bacon can, one condiment can, one poncho, one blanket, one shelter half, five tent pins, one trenchcoat, coat, and one bayonet. Though the pack is probably a necessary evil, it can be characterized as nothing less than a curse. One never gets used to it, furthermore, it not only drags the man down, but it makes him fret and stew as long as he is burdened with it. When thus going into action the soldier is fearfully handicapped, for at the moment his nerves should be steady, his whole being alert and his body able to respond to instant direction, a millstone, as it were, is persistently and surely disorganizing his every effort.

When a camp site is reached and the men of a company ordered to pitch tents, two men work together putting up their "pup" or "dog" tent. Each man carries half a tent so the two men have a whole tent. The temporary shelter faces the company street, has a triangular front the height of the rifle and about seven feet deep. The rear is also triangular in shape but much smaller than the front. There are front and rear flaps which button together so that the rain may be kept out. A ditch is dug at the sides and back to catch the water so that none may enter the tent.

The poncho is provided with buttons on one side and on one end so that with the two blankets given him a man may make a water proof water proof sleeping bag. The poncho also serves to keep out the cold and inquisitive little bugs. After a fellow has cupped out a little place under his poncho where his hip bone is to go he is already to "hit the hay," though there may not be any hay.

The next task set the rookie after he has pitched his tent is that of partaking of the noon mess. Very often the men are too exhausted to eat, then a nice cool spot under a shady tree and the canteen of cool water are very welcome. After mess the men are free until inspection of arms at 5:20; many seek out a brook or a stream nearby and go for a bath and swim.

By the time Plattsburgh was reached the fellows were pretty tired. There wasn't a man who would have missed the trip, even though it seemed sometimes as if one couldn't drag one's foot after the other. Undoubtedly the physical condition of each man was very much improved, owing to the wise and systematic oversight given by the commanding officers. Naturally the work was quite strenuous at times, but there were few who were so weary that they had to give up the training. It must be admitted that the benefits one may receive from such training are invaluable, and should be sought by those who find it possible to steal away from their work for one short month in the year.

## GOV. FLETCHER'S

## CAMPAIGN METHODS!

Senator Page is receiving a large number of letters insisting that he meet Gov. Fletcher on his own level and attack him on his many vulnerable points.

He has received offers of facts concerning both the public and private record of the Governor which are claimed to be damaging in the extreme.

In every case these offers have been declined with the assurance that Senator Page would not descend to this method of campaigning.

## GOV. FLETCHER SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO BUILD UP HIS OWN SENATORIAL FORTUNES HE MUST TEAR DOWN AND DESTROY SENATOR PAGE.

He forgets that Senator Page has always lived in Vermont—that commencing in 1869 as a Representative from Hyde Park, re-elected in 1870, elected a State Senator in 1874; a member of the Republican State Committee from 1872 to 1889, and its Chairman from 1885 to 1889; as Bank Examiner from 1884 to 1888; as Governor from 1890 to 1892; and as United States Senator from 1908 to 1916, he has been continuously in the lime-light in public service to such an extent that the people of Vermont have formed an opinion as to his integrity and ability which cannot be undermined and destroyed in a few brief weeks of political advertising.

Gov. Fletcher forgets that Governor Page has been dealing with the people of Vermont in a business way all these years and that his reputation for integrity and square dealing, whether good or bad, cannot be changed in a day.

## GOV. FLETCHER WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENJOY A COMPLETE MONOPOLY OF HIS INDIANA METHODS OF CAMPAIGNING. SENATOR PAGE WILL NOT DESCEND TO THIS LEVEL.

Gov. Fletcher will find that Senator Page's many Vermont friends will be prompt to resent his abuse and excellent judges say that the Senator's vindication is as certain to come at the primary, September 12th, as the sun is to rise and set.

Senator Page is now receiving many letters assuring him that the reaction against Governor Fletcher's questionable campaign methods has already set in, but be that as it may, the Senator is quite content to trust his vindication to the people of Vermont. They know that his business interests are all in Vermont; that every fiber of his being is loyal to his native state and always will be; that despite the malicious attempt to injure the Bank of which he is President, it is an institution of which Vermont is justly proud.

They know that his calfskin business has brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to Vermont, and that because of this business another industry in which Vermont leads has been added to the list.

Whether Vermonters are or are not proud of their former Governor and Junior United States Senator, may in the mind of Gov. Fletcher be a matter of doubt. That Gov. Fletcher has, by his attempts to blacken the character of Senator Page, taken the surest possible method to determine that fact, no sane man can doubt. Senator Page is quite willing to await the arrival of Sept. 12th to receive Vermont's verdict relative to the introduction of Gov. Fletcher's Indiana methods into Vermont State politics.

## A RICH AFFIDAVIT

As a sample of the campaign methods by which Gov. Fletcher hopes to reach the United States Senate, it may be stated that there is now being slyly circulated through the state an affidavit made by one Arthur M. Rich—a discharged clerk of Senator Page—to the effect that this young man was in Senator Page's official employ in Washington the Senator took from him a portion of his salary, and put it in his own pocket.

Letters have already been received by Senator Page calling his attention to this precious concoction in the counties of Orleans, Essex and Windham and the probabilities are that it has been circulated throughout the state. Senator Page has twice sent to the office of Williams & Smith of Newport for a copy of the Rich affidavit, but has been unsuccessful in securing it. That the affidavit is absolutely false the Senator states unqualifiedly and that indisputable documentary proof to show its falsity is now in his hands.

This affidavit has a most interesting history. The call sent out to young Rich to come to Vermont to make this affidavit was sent by one of the firm of Williams & Smith. Of this fact, there is absolute proof. It was executed in the law office of Williams & Smith at Newport, the political headquarters of Allen M. Fletcher in Orleans county. The affidavit was sworn to before B. M. Spooner, a clerk in the office of Williams & Smith.

Incidentally it might be mentioned that the senior partner of this Newport law firm is Bank Commissioner Williams, whose arraignment of the management of Senator Page's Hyde Park bank recently occupied nearly a full page in every paper in Vermont and cost Gov. Fletcher over \$3,000—enough to buy a good farm.

## Insurance Talk

You have always thought that it paid to have your belongings insured against loss by fire.

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## Liberation Notice

Whereas, I have this day given my son, Archie Leeman Marshall, his time during the remainder of his minority, that is to give notice that I shall claim none of his earnings nor pay any of his debts contracting after this date.

REUBEN J. MARSHALL,  
July 17, 1916. Craftsbury, Vt.

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## PROBATE COURTS

Special sessions of the Probate Court will be held at the office of F. W. BALDWIN, in BARTON, on the second and fourth Fridays of each month in the afternoon; and at the office of COLBY STROBARD, in ORLEANS, in the afternoon of the third Friday of each month. Parties desiring to transact Probate business at Barton or Orleans should notify the Judge in advance, that he may take the necessary papers.  
The Probate office at NEWPORT will be open every day, except Sundays and holidays; but those coming from a distance, as far as possible, should make special appointments with the Court in advance.  
RUFUS W. SPEAR, JUDGE.